

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are all the claims pending in the application.

Art Rejections

1. Claims 1-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Fujita et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,055,361 ("Fujita"), McCormick et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,706,411 ("McCormick") and Fujiyama, U.S. Patent No. 6,336,141 ("Fujiyama"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the reasons stated below.

The Examiner acknowledges that the combination of Fujita and McCormick fails to disclose at least the underlined limitations of independent claims 1, 11, 20, 23 and 24:

print job data processing means, contained in the printer, for interpreting the print job data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and returning a part of the print job data, which indicates a process state of the print job data based on the reply information to a predetermined destination which is external to the printer,

wherein said predetermined destination is included in intrinsic data of said reply information;¹

The Examiner thus relies on Fujiyama to fulfill the deficiencies of Fujita and McCormick.

Fujiyama is directed to a network system where two computers belonging to different networks communicate with each other via multiple relay computers. Specifically, the multiple

¹ Claims 11, 20, 23 and 24 each contain similar limitations to the limitations recited above from independent claim 1.

relay computers work in cooperation with one another so that logs, which are dispersively recorded in each relay computer, can be collectively managed by a single management apparatus.

The Examiner points to Figures 10-11 and column 11, lines 20-29 of Fujiyama as being comparable to the claimed predetermined destination which is included as intrinsic data of the reply information. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position for the reasons set forth below.

Fujiyama discloses a log monitor manager 18 which sends a request to a relay computer 13. In response to the request, the log monitor manager 18 receives a request packet 111 from the relay computer 13. The format of the reply packet 111 sent from the relay computer 13 to the log monitor manager 18 is clearly illustrated in Figures 11A and Fig 11B. The reply packet 111 does, as asserted by the Examiner, include an address field 116. However, as clearly disclosed in Col. 11, lines 28-31, the address included in field 116 is that of the relay computer and not a predetermined address to which the reply data is sent. In other words, the relay computer 13, includes its own address in the reply packet 111 being transmitted to the log monitor manager 18 so that the log monitor manager 18 can identify, for management purposes, from which relay computer 13 the reply information or check result was received.

Because the address contained in field 116 of the reply packet 111 is that of the relay computer 13, and is not a destination address, the disclosure in Fujiyama is not comparable to the

claimed process state which is returned to a predetermined destination and which is external to the printer.

Even if, assuming *arguendo*, that the combination of Fujita and McCormick were modified with the teachings of Fujiyama, the result would not be equivalent to the claimed subject matter because, according to Fujiyama, the address that should be included in the address field of the reply packet 111 would be that of the printer completing the request. This obviously does not make sense. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would never look to Fujiyama to modify the combination of Fujita and McCormick in order to produce the claimed returning of a process state based on reply information to a predetermined destination which is external to the printer.

Because the combination of Fujita, McCormick and Fujiyama fails to disclose each and every recitation of the claimed subject matter and because the claimed subject matter could not be produced by modifying the combination of Fujita and McCormick with the teachings of Fujiyama, the combination of Fujita, McCormick and Fujiyama cannot possibly render obvious the claimed subject matter.

Applicant further submits that the combination of Fujita, McCormick and Fujiyama also fails to disclose, teach or suggest the following recitation found in claims 1, 11, 20, 23 and 24:

print job data processing means, contained in the printer, for interpreting the print job data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and returning a part of the print job data, which indicates a process state of the print job data based on the reply information to a predetermined destination which is external to the printer,

The Examiner argues that the above recitation can be found in Col. 5, lines 5-9 and 61-63 of Fujita. Upon reviewing these sections, Applicant submits that the Examiner misunderstands the recitation. Specifically, in a non-limiting embodiment of the present invention the print job data includes at least the data to be returned (i.e.; the process state) and the predetermined position to which the data is returned (i.e.; a position external to the printer). Col. 5, lines 5-9 and 61-63 simply disclose that printer commands are queued into a buffer and processed accordingly. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of including the process state of the print job data in the reply information wherein the process state of the print job data is returned to a predetermined destination which is external to the printer.

Furthermore, the Examiner relies on status inquiry command illustrated in Figure 8 as being equivalent to the process state of the print job data. Even if, assuming *arguendo*, that the inquiry command and the process state included in the print job data are equivalent, there is absolutely no disclosure in the combination of references (for the reasons explained above and incorporated herein) that suggests returning the process state of the print job data to a predetermined destination.

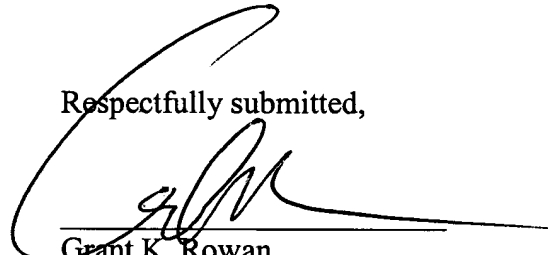
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/289,601
Q53957

In light of the above discussion, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the § 103(a) rejection from independent claims 1, 11, 20, 23 and 24 and from the claims that depend therefrom.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Three Times Amended) A printer system including a host computer and a printer for receiving print data from the host computer, the printer system comprising:

print data generating means, contained in the host computer, for generating print data;

reply information issuance means for generating print job data, wherein the print job data comprises the print data and reply information, and wherein the reply information issuance means generates the print job data by locating the reply information at a predetermined position with respect to the print data, and wherein the print job data is transmitted to the printer;

print job data processing means, contained in the printer, for interpreting the print job data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and returning a part of the print job data, which indicates a process state of the print job data based on the reply information to a predetermined destination which is external to the printer,

wherein said predetermined destination is included in intrinsic data of said reply information;

print control means for printing based on interpretation of said print job data processing means; and

job processing state monitor means for monitoring a processing state of the print data based on the reply information returned from said print job data processing means.

11. (Three Times Amended) A printer for printing based on input data comprising:
reception means for receiving print job data containing reply information and print data;
print job data processing means for interpreting the print job data, detecting the reply
information from the print job data, and returning a part of the print job data, which indicates a
process state of the print job data based on the reply information to a predetermined destination
which is external to the printer;

wherein said predetermined destination is included in intrinsic data of said reply
information; and

print control means for printing based on interpretation of said print job data processing
means.

23. (Twice Amended) A printer system including a host computer and a printer
comprising:

a first controller contained in the host computer, wherein the first controller generates
print job data comprising print data and reply information located in the print job data at a
predetermined position with respect to the print data, and transmits the print job data to the
printer;

a second controller contained in the printer, wherein the second controller receives the
print job data from the host computer, detects the reply information from the print job data,
returns a part of the print data, which indicates a process state of the print job data based on the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appl. No. 09/289,601
Q53957

reply information to a predetermined destination included in the intrinsic data of said reply information, and controls printing based on the print data contained in the print job data; and

a monitoring processor, which is external to the printer, receives the reply information returned from the printer, and monitors a processing state of the print data based on the reply information returned from the printer.

24. (Twice Amended) A recording medium containing a program to instruct a processor within a printer to perform a routine, comprising:

receiving print job data containing reply information and print data;

interpreting the print data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and returning a part of the print job data, which indicates a process state of the print data based on the reply information to a predetermined destination external to the printer, wherein said predetermined destination is included in intrinsic data of said reply information, and printing based on interpretation of said print data.